

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Mailed on April 5, 2005. In that Office Action, claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11-13, 16, 17, 21, 23 and 25-28 were rejected, and claims 5-7, 10, 14, 15, 18-20, 22 and 24 were objected to. Through the above amendments, claims 5, 10, 14-15, 18, 20, 22 and 24 are amended, and claims 1-4, 8-9, 11-13, 16-17, 21, 23, and 25-28 are canceled. Claims 5-7, 10, 14-15, 18-20, 22 and 24 are now pending in the present application. Thus, reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claims 1, 17 and 24 because of certain informalities. Through the foregoing amendments, claims 1 and 17 were canceled, and claim 24 was amended to correct the aforementioned informality.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11-13, 16, 17, 21, 23 and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Trent (885,108), Thompson et al. (4,294,549), Pope (5,341,768), Ebihara (5,975,843), or Griggs (5,957,122). Applicant traverses those rejections and submits that all claims as originally filed are allowable over the references of record. It is Applicant's position that the claimed combinations are not shown in the references as stated by the Office Action.

Nonetheless, the foregoing amendments to claims 5, 10, 14-15, 18, 20, 22 and 24 and cancellation of claims 1-4, 8-9, 11-13, 16-17, 21, 23, and 25-28 are submitted to advance prosecution of the present application, thereby rendering the above rejections moot. However, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled subject matter in the present application and in continuing applications. In addition, claim 10 has been further amended to correct an oversight.

Also, any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not

having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, and similarly interpreted statements, should not be considered well known since the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 5-7, 10, 14-15, 18-20, 22 and 24 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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